



**News from Congressman**

# **Tom Lantos**

**12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of California  
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 15, 2003**

**FOR INFORMATION CALL:**  
**Bob King - (202) 225-6735**

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## **HOUSE COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON LANTOS LEGISLATION TO EXPAND GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo/San Francisco) urged a Congressional committee today to approve the addition of 5,000 acres to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) in San Mateo County. "This is a golden opportunity to protect pristine lands by adding them to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area," said Congressman Lantos. "This opportunity is only available to us for a limited time. We need to act now."

Congressman Lantos made this statement today to the Congressional panel that oversees national parks during a hearing on H.R. 532, a bill introduced by Tom Lantos to expand the boundaries of the GGNRA to include the Rancho Corral de Tierra, one of the largest tracts of undeveloped land along the San Mateo Coast that includes Montara Mountain. The property has panoramic views, important watersheds, miles of scenic trails, and an array of plant and animal life, some of which are threatened or endangered.

Also testifying before the Congressional committee today was Audrey Rust, President of the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), the Menlo Park-based non-profit land conservancy organization which has been instrumental in working with local owners to acquire the lands to be added to the park. POST will provide private funding to cover a portion of the purchase price.

Congress Lantos in his testimony before the Committee emphasized that "the GGNRA would acquire these valuable and unique lands for about half their market value." Under his legislation, the Federal Government would pay only half the cost, with the other half provided by state, local and private sources. In addition to Rancho Corral de Tierra, approximately 800 acres of state property near Devil's Slide would be included in the recreation area.

The Lantos bill has received wide public support from the GGNRA-Point Reyes National Seashore Citizens Advisory Commission, the San Mateo County Board Supervisors, and many Bay Area environmental groups.

Both Houses of Congress passed the Lantos bill last year, but final action did not occur before Congress adjourned. This year, the Senate has already passed the Senate companion bill sponsored by Senator Dianne Feinstein and cosponsored by Senator Barbara Boxer.

Congressman Lantos' bill is cosponsored by ten Bay Area Members of Congress – Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco), and Members of Congress George Miller (D-Martinez), Anna Eshoo (D-Atherton), Barbara Lee (D-Oakland), Ellen Tauscher (D-Pleasanton), Mike Honda (D-San Jose), Mike Thompson (D-St. Helena), Pete Stark (D-Hayward), Zoe Lofgren (D-San Jose), and Lynn Woolsey (D-Petaluma).

The GGNRA is the world's largest urban park with over 75,000 acres of land and 28 miles of coastline including Alcatraz, the Marin Headlands, Muir Woods, and the Presidio. Congressman Lantos has been a major supporter of maintaining and expanding this important park area on the Peninsula. As a result of legislation he has authored, many areas have been added to the GGNRA, including Sweeney Ridge, the Phleger Estate in Woodside, and Mori Point in Pacifica.

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